



The **HIGHLANDER**


April 2022

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 am Sun 3 rd	Morning Worship Café Church	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 10 th	Morning Worship Palm Sunday Parade Service	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Fri 15 th	United Service <u>at</u> <u>Wesley</u> Good Friday	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 17 th	Morning Worship Easter Sunday Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
11:00 am Sun 24 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders

Services above are all live, but details may be altered.



 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church
www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

The ***Highlander*** is published by Highlands Methodist Church, Sutherland Blvd, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 3PT. Highlands Methodist Church is a member church of the *Southend and Leigh Circuit*, 34/10, which is part of the Beds, Essex and Herts District.

Highlands Methodist Church

Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

From Your Minister



Easter, that wonderful time of the year when we can remember the sacrifice of Jesus for each of us, and celebrate our risen Saviour all in the same weekend!

I remember a few years back in one of my previous churches, having an Easter egg hunt in the service for the children. Before the service, and before people arrived, some of the Sunday school teachers hid foil wrapped chocolate eggs around the church. When it came to the part of the service where the children took part in the hunt, there was much fun and laughter as the one by one the eggs were found. The service then continued.

Some 3 years or so later, the church was having a spring clean and we used scaffold to reach the high parts of the church to dust etc. Upon looking down at the church, I noticed quite high up, something shiny on top of one of the pillars, and you've guessed it, it was an Easter egg never found from the Easter egg hunt all those years before. Strangely though, nobody fancied eating it.

But this made me think. How often have we been given the gift of Jesus at Easter and never unwrapped Him? How many Easter services have we attended and never tasted the glorious riches He

has for each of us because we've never unwrapped Him, or maybe never even found Him?

So, what is this gift?

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.' [John 3:16-17 NIV]

The gift then, is eternal life! And unlike Easter eggs, the gift of Jesus never goes out of date or perishes; the gift of Jesus lasts forever.

May each one of us unwrap Jesus this Easter and fully experience His love and grace.

Easter blessings,
Pastor Steve, March 2022
01702 483827
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Humour Corner

Man in café meeting a talking dog: *How did you learn to talk so well?*

Dog: *I was in the army, parachute division, transferred to the Medical Corps and qualified as a doctor, then I was a war correspondent on The Times, and finally I was invalided out, became an actor and won an Oscar.*

Man: *Wow! That's an amazing career. Your owner must be so proud of you...*

Dog owner (overhearing): *Not really. He never did half of those things*



We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly *Doll Edwards in The Cedars*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

Congratulations to Petra and Darrin Samuels on their wedding, which took place on 12 March here at Highlands and was indeed a very happy occasion.

We ask for **a speedy recovery** for everyone afflicted by the current wave of COVID 19. The speed and uncertainty of the spreading virus makes it impossible to provide names – the list will always be out of date.

Especially **we pray for** Rev Teresa Rutterford. Having seemingly recovered from a COVID 19 episode, she has had to remain in hospital to deal with a further problem.

We continue to **pray for peace** in Ukraine – may all parties reach a fair and just conclusion which respects the rights and wishes of the people of that land.



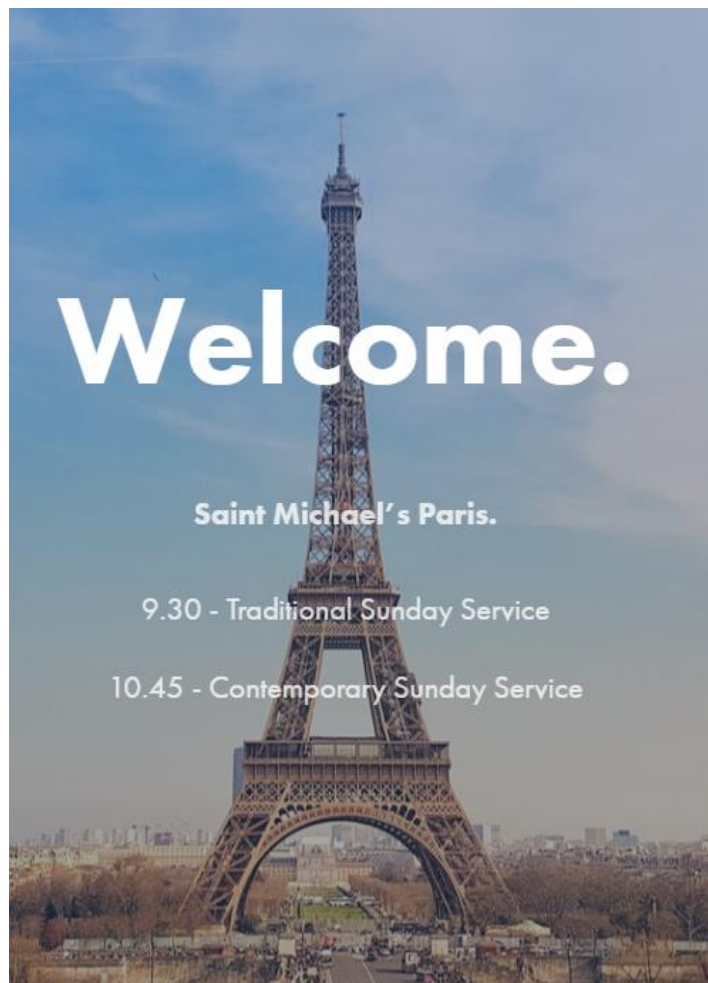
From the Editor

This week I was reminded of an old friend named Jonathan. I haven't seen him for some years. The reason for which will become clear.

When I first got to know Jonathan, he was a curate in his first appointment. I remember us watching England on TV in the 1990 World Cup. Some years ago, as I say. Later he would get his own parishes in West London, and in 2003 he became rector of St George's, a large and busy parish church in the centre of Leeds. Currently he is pastor of St Michael's Anglican church in Paris. Yes, that's right, the large city in France with the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. His church, in rue d'Aguesseau, is about 2 minutes' walk from the British Embassy, perhaps 4 minutes from the Élysée Palace. Do drop in if you're passing...

Now that's what I call a nice gig. Given the choice between becoming a bishop, and a ministry in Paris, what would *you* do?

In fact, there are Anglican churches in major cities and capitals all across Europe. That includes Moscow, where Anglikanskaya Tserkov' Svyatogo Andrey'a (St Andrew's, of course) stands in the central Arbat district, about 600 metres north-west of Red Square. I was surprised to learn this, but I should not have been. Russia has deep religious roots. 47% of Russians are



self-professedly Christian - including Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

The reason I know this is that the Moscow Anglican chaplain, Revd Canon Malcolm Rogers was interviewed (by phone) recently on the Radio 4 Today programme. And that of course reminded me of Jonathan, working away in Paris.

It was a fascinating interview, of which the most striking aspect was the way that Canon Rogers was struggling to express God's view of current affairs in a way that was acceptable to the Russian authorities, who would not hesitate to expel or arrest him if he happened to mis-speak. Under Russian law he could not even refer to a 'war' – it may only be described as a 'special military operation'. This made me reflect on the privilege that we in the UK enjoy of being able to say what we like, think what we like and worship as we please. It is something for which we should thank God, and also thank those who have sacrificed their lives (and are still doing so) in order to preserve freedom for all.



So I note that two peoples, both of whom worship the same God, are at war. In those circumstances, which of the two sides does God support? The answer, it seems to me, is that God supports peace, humanity, compassion, freedom, justice, truth and above all, love.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. [1 John 4:7 NIV]

Give peace a chance [John Lennon]

Ananias

Snippets

Hobbies

Our Hobbies ladies have been very busy making beautiful Easter cards and baskets for eggs for which you may donate to church funds at Saturday coffee mornings.

On 7 April we plan to try our hand at Rainbow painting on cards led by Lesley.

On 21 April there will be a variety of card making crafts available Our meetings (Thursdays at 10:00 am until 12:00 noon) are open to all for various crafts, fun and friendship.

Jean ☎525250 Julie ☎479804

Christian Aid

Grateful thanks to our congregation for the donation of £303 for an appeal for Ukraine All our continuous prayers are so needed.

Serving the Homeless

Our Quiz evening in March raised £1,080 during a very enjoyable evening.

Future events being planned: -

11 May	Afternoon Tea @ Park View Restaurant
10 June	Evening of Jazz @ Our Lady of Lourdes (OLoL)
20 July	Spring Raffle draw
10 September	A Floral display with Arts and Crafts @ OLoL

Raffle tickets, for a huge selection of hampers, are now available and tickets for the Afternoon Tea will be ready soon. You can always prebook and I will deliver the tickets when printed.

We are now in the position to provide a defibrillator for HARP at the Bradbury Centre in York Road, where they have bedrooms for 48 persons since they added 10 extra rooms by leasing the house next door. The regular monthly payment for fresh food also continues.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during these difficult times.

Frank

Pastoral Appeal

At our last Pastoral meeting we realised a great need for drivers prepared to give lifts to less able folk who would love to attend church or weekly activities such as Tuesday Chatter. If anyone can help even occasionally it would be much appreciated.

Julie Peek. Older Persons worker ☎479804

Jean Edmonds. Pastoral Co - Ordinator ☎525250

Church Flowers...

...on 24 April have been donated by Jean and Frank Edmonds in memory of brother Mike

And staying with a floral theme...

Leigh Floral Group at Highlands!

Thanks to all who supported our Cake Sale and Coffee Morning on March 19th! The weather was glorious (but chilly) and it was a treat to see so many people enjoying a cuppa, a chat and a lovely piece of cake! Our funds will be boosted by this event, and we are very grateful to Highlands for letting us use the Church buildings as our venue.

On 9 April we are holding a Fun Quiz Night at Highlands. Members and guests welcome. Tickets are £5 on the door, bring your own drinks and nibbles – but NO alcohol please. Ideally, we'll form tables of 6 people - but if you would like to join us as an individual or pair, we will have tables that need extra brain power.

With our eyes on the need to embrace sustainable ways of living, we are trying to make more of our arrangements without using floral foam, which is virtually indestructible and very bad for the environment.

On 29 April we have a demonstrator coming to the Club, to make arrangements on the theme of 'Floral Cocktail'; we also have a demonstration on 27 May by another this time with a theme of 'Love is in the Air' followed that evening by a plant sale of garden and house plant cuttings. Further ahead in June will be a member's luncheon in Leigh plus a demonstration called 'Second Hand Rose.'

At every monthly meeting, beautiful floral arrangements are raffled, sometimes we have a sales table, and there is always tea, coffee and 'good' biscuits! Visitors pay £5 for each attendance; if they subsequently join the club fees are £34.00 annually and the first £5 is deducted from the annual fee. Members also pay £2 for each meeting attended.

Please do come along to visit (and hopefully join!) our friendly group! We are always keen to welcome new members and your horticultural knowledge will help us in our better understanding of the flowers and foliage we use.

If you have any questions, contact our Secretary, Karen Cobb on 01702 478095; 07818 431552 or karenjcobb@hotmail.com.

New Fire Alarm System

Following the information I shared last month, I have some good

News. At the Circuit Meeting on 10 March, they agreed to our loan of £9,000 from the York Road Funds, over 4 years, interest free. So we will proceed with the fire alarm installation once we have the funds transferred to us from the Circuit. It seems that a couple of people from Highlands have approached Pastor Steve about fundraising for this venture, so we may be able to pay some of the loan back a little sooner.

As always, prevention is better than cure, so all users of the site must carry on exercising care and common sense to avoid fire risks.

Cubs and Scouts

As you may know, the Cubs and Scouts have refreshed our leadership, with Jordan, Chlöe, Carl and Anna taking the leading roles, supported by some of the older leaders. The occasion of the clocks going forward is an event that Cubs and Scouts eagerly anticipate. It means of course that we can get out in the lighter evenings and enjoy the fresh air – as I write this, we are looking forward to a wide game over at Belchamps Scout Centre on Thursday. Not that the long nights of winter deter us from enjoying ourselves. In the last couple of weeks, Scouts have held a brass instrument session – you may have heard it if you live within a mile or so – and we have done a dark cycle ride along the seawall to Benfleet and back.



So, I say 'thanks' to all my fellow leaders, to all the parents who act as cab drivers and supporters of our young people, and everyone else who helps – especially Pastor Steve for his visit with his

extensive collection of brass instruments, old and new.

We aim gradually to bring back church parades – the first one will be on 10 April – Palm Sunday. See you there.

New Boiler

A big thanks to the Garfield Weston Foundation who have just given us a grant of £5,000 towards replacing the old boilers.

It is very generous of them as they kindly gave us money towards the new lighting in the church just a few years ago.

I understand that with this and all the other very generous donations, we now have enough funds for the work to start.



Daisy Bowlers

A chance to see our favourite quirky and fun vintage band performing (with 3-part vocal harmony, ukulele, double bass and guitar) occurs at Chelmsford Trinity Methodist Church at 7:30 pm on Sat 9 April. Tickets £10 and further detail from the Fishermen's Chapel or Heather ☎07879 232231.



The Platinum Jubilee at Highlands



Highlands Platinum Jubilee
Community Day

featuring
Southend Mencap 'Showstoppers'

**Thursday 9 June 11:00 am –
3:00 pm**

including all age Community Service
at 2pm

Please save the date in your diaries to celebrate Her Majesty The Queens Platinum Jubilee here at Highlands. Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.

You are cordially invited to join the proceedings.

We would like to extend an invitation to all clubs and groups that meet at Highlands to come along and share with us what you do. We are planning a history display of the Queen's reign in the lounge, a Jubilee Street Party in the Hall and culminating in a community service lead by Pastor Steve Mayo and Rev Norman Hooks.

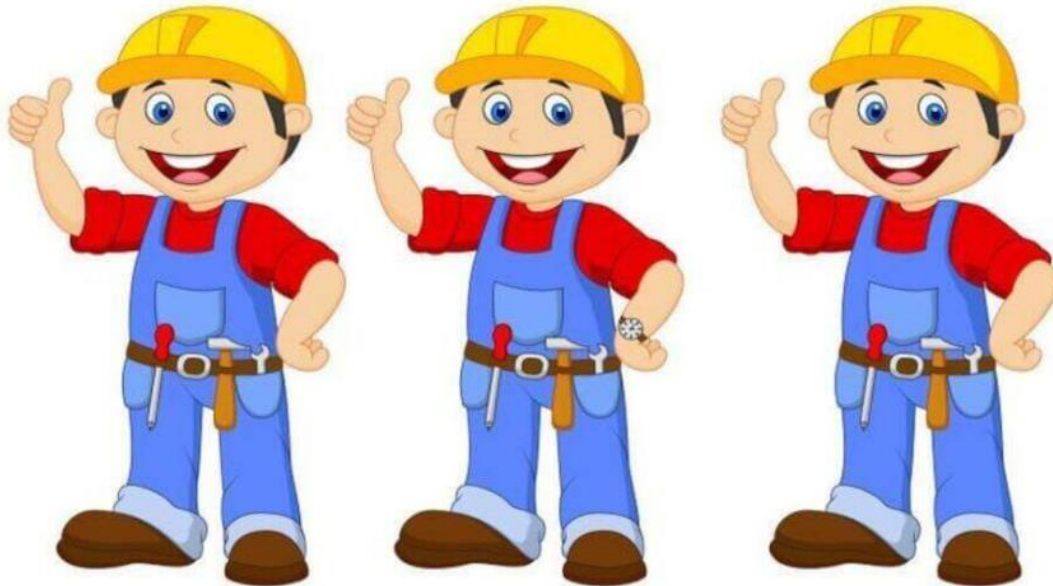
RSVP Julie Peek ☎ 01702 47980

Gospel @ The Fishermen's Chapel

The Fishermen's Chapel Gospel Service is normally on the second Sunday of each month. It is not only spiritual but massively enjoyable and entertaining. You can even join in online, sign up for the newsletter via <http://fishermenschapel.org.uk/newsletter/> and you'll be sent details.

Puzzle of the Month¹

1. How good is your observation? From the three builders (all called Bob by the way) choose the odd one out



2. Now choose the odd one out from this list of words:

First Second Third Forth Fifth Sixth Seventh Eighth Nine Ten
Eleven Twelve Thirteen fourteen fifteen sixteen.

¹ Solution page 18



Jobs for the Garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

Whilst our gardens are full of spring colour at present, I think that the blossom all around us is the best I've seen for many years. Take a walk around the local parks and the white blackthorn blossom is all around. Near West Wood this afternoon, the branches of the blackthorn were literally buzzing with hordes of sparrows.



The cherry blossom is out too – early this year – as the main month is usually April. Did you know that the average cherry tree blooms only for 2 weeks in ideal conditions – if it's wet, windy or stormy the flowers disappear more quickly.

So, it's essential to take full advantage of the wonderful displays when they appear – don't leave it until next week to go out to see

– they may have gone.

The cherry blossom, combined with the glorious displays of magnolias, means that we have a real treat this year.

In Japan, where the cherry blossom originates, there are huge celebrations to see the cherry blossom. There's a special name for the viewing of the flowers – *hanami*. As soon as the blossom



appears, people gather in the parks for picnics – huge social affairs. In the evening, I'm told that they hang lights and lanterns in the branches so the flowers appear to glow in the dark.

In Japan the flowering cherry – *Sakura* – is considered a national flower. You'll find it on the reverse side of your 100-yen coin. (Only worth about 62p unfortunately).



There will be cherry blossom at Hyde Hall soon as they have been planting *Sakura* over the last year. If you read the notice about them, it reminds us that life is short, ephemeral, enjoy it to the full while it lasts. How appropriate.

SGC

Poem of the Month

This month brings an old favourite, chosen by Marion Reid, and inspired by an event on 15 April 1802 in which Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy came across a "long belt" of daffodils, while wandering in the forest. Here in Essex the daffodils are an annual signal of early spring. Around Wordsworth's home of Grasmere, some 300 miles north, they are in full flower in April.



The first verse is very well-known. Less quoted are verses 3 and 4 which describe the effect that the blooms have on him. Many of us will identify the same reaction.

Daffodils **William Wordsworth (1770-1850)**

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Puzzle of the Month Solution

Sorry if you found this a bit too easy...

1. Bob in the middle is the only builder wearing a wristwatch.
The other two will have to guess when to take a tea break.
2. All the answers are numbers, either cardinal or ordinal, with one exception: Forth is of course a river in Scotland.

Humour Corner

Language Teacher: *Did you by any chance use 'Google Translate' to write this essay for your French class?*

Pupil: *No of course not. Why do you think that?*

Teacher: *It's in Finnish*

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Group	Time	Contact
Scouts	Thu 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Carl Mason 07814 226133
Cubs	Thu 5:45 to 7:15 pm	Lesley Bacon 07947 116891
Rainbows	Wed 4:00 to 5:00 pm	Julie Griffiths 07834 321724
Brownies	Wed 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Dilys Haddow 710207
Guides	Fri 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Rangers	Thu ² 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Toddlers	Mon 9:30 am to 11:30	Ros: 478631 Margaret: 557512

Fellowship Groups

Group	Time	Contact
Prayer ³	Tue 9:00 to 10:00 am	Andrew Hyde 473111
Chatter	Tue 10:00 am to 12:00 noon	Jean Edmonds 525250

Services to the Community

Group	Time	Contact
Lunch Club	TBA	TBA
Staying Steady	Wed 1:00 pm	TBA


Social and Recreational

Group	Time	Contact
Hobbies	1 st /3 rd Thu 10:00 am to noon	Jean 525250

² Every fortnight

³ on Zoom

For updated news keep following
www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

or  Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church
also www.methodist.org.uk is an excellent source of information
and inspiration.

Items for the May 2022 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 24** April,
and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone
473111 to arrange an alternative.

Humour Corner

Some 'adult' howlers:

From a publication not unlike this one: *The church had a going-away party for Reverend Smith. The congregation was anxious to give him a little momentum.*

Local paper: *Harry Jones, who is ordained as a deamon, will join the team ministry on May 16.*

Weekly Church Newssheet: *Come to our Special Holiday Bingo & Dinner Monday evening 30 November. Tickets include two bingo packs, which cover all games played, and your choice of children or roast beef for dinner*

Notice: *Weight Watchers meet at 7:00 pm every Monday. Please use the double doors at the side of the church*